

Minutes  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session, Monday, November 6, 2006, 9:30 a.m.

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 6, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Dan Hunsucker and Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Lynn M. Lail and Barbara G. Beatty.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Joellen Daley, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, Interim County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Attorney Anne Marie Pease and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Glenn E. Barger offered the invocation.
4. Vice-Chair Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Session of October 2, 2006 and the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2006. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and recognized the Mini-Course Graduates in the audience.
6. Comments for Items not on the Agenda. None.
7. Presentations:
  - a. Commissioner Beatty presented Tony Bunton, Executive Director of the Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry with a proclamation supporting the Scouting For Food program, scheduled to be conducted by the Boy Scouts of America on November 11 and 18. It has been estimated that one of every five children is unable to maintain a minimally adequate diet. Requests for emergency food have increased nationally by almost 40% in a two-year period. The proclamation recognized that hunger is a problem the community can do something about by working together and commended the Boy Scouts, which will coordinate with other groups to conduct a local Scouting for Food Good Turn food collection drive on November 11 and 18. The proclamation urged all citizens to contribute as best as they can to this worthwhile endeavor.
  - b. Commissioner Barger presented Social Workers Regina Roberts and Bernie Boags and student Shamor Peeler with a proclamation declaring November as Adoption Awareness Month, to recognize the County's efforts to create better public awareness of children seeking permanent homes through adoption, especially older children; those with emotional or medical problems; those who may be racially mixed or physically disabled; and groups of brothers and sisters who should be kept together. Caring adults can make a positive difference in the lives of young people, siblings, children of different ethnicities and youth who have been harmed by abuse. Last year, more than 1420 foster children in North Carolina were adopted. Sixty-five of those were children out of the Catawba County foster care system. But more than 700 foster children in North Carolina, with an average age of eight years old, are currently legally available for adoption. Fourteen of those children are in Catawba County and more will continually be added to the list. Chair Barnes commended Shamor Peeler for his academic achievements and his successes despite the many hurdles he had been faced with.
  - c. Vice-Chair Hunsucker presented Wayne Huddleston, Chairperson of the Farm-City Week Committee and Fred Miller, Jr., Cooperative Extension Director with a proclamation declaring the week of November 17-23 as Farm-City Week to foster cooperation and an exchange of information between two essential segments of our society: farmers and city dwellers. The week includes a banquet, to be held on November 21, during which these beneficial relationships are highlighted, and programs designed to introduce people from both "worlds" to the lives and work of each other.
  - d. Commissioner Lynn M. Lail presented Judy Ikerd, Budget Manager and Budget Analysts Jennifer Mace and Katrina Hawkins with a 2006 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. The award is presented to local governments that prepare and publish a

budget document judged to be informative and understandable. Catawba County has won the award for 18 consecutive years.

e. Debbie Bradley, Personnel Director, recognized thirteen graduates of the County's Employee Mini Course. Employees who voluntarily take the course attend sessions, on their lunch hour, to learn more about the services each County department provides. This year's graduates included: Cari Burns, County Manager's Office; Lori Dessert, Social Services; Amanda Driggers, Social Services; William Gardner, Jr., Public Health; Crystal Hildebran, Social Services; Diane Jennings, Library; Candice Justice, formerly with Public Health; Maricruz McCorkle, Social Services; Kathie Michaud, Social Services; Stephanie Pannell, Technology; Bob Rowe, Technology; Deirdre Sauberan, Social Services and Angie Triplett, Personnel.

8. Public Hearing:

Mike Bennett, Interim Transit Manager of the Piedmont Wagon Transit System came forward to present the FY 2007-2008 Community Transportation Program Grant Application. This grant is available annually from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and provides funds for administration and capital expenses for counties that meet the requirements of coordination and consolidation of transportation services. The funding covers 85% of allowable administrative expenses and 90% of capital expenses. This will be the ninth year in which Catawba County has qualified for this grant. Staff projects a total grant for Catawba County for the next fiscal year of \$156,926 in administrative expenses and \$66,082 in capital expenses. The requested funding from NCDOT will be \$133,387 for administrative expenses and \$59,473 for capital expenses. The required match from Catawba County would be \$23,539 for administrative expenses and \$6,609 for capital, for a total local match of \$30,148. The capital funding would be used for the purchase of two lift vans to replace vehicles that are currently used to provide transportation to nutrition and recreation centers, medical appointments and grocery shopping. Chair Barnes opened the required public hearing which had been appropriately advertised and the following people came forward to speak:

Janet Hannah – Business Relations Representative for the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services - voiced her organization's concerns regarding public transportation – she stated that estimates are that by 2010 there will be 168 million jobs in the US with only 158 million available workers to fill those jobs – people with disabilities and the elderly will be sought to fill the jobs but these people will need the transportation to get there. She stated there are not enough ADS accessible vehicles to transport the current citizens of Catawba County. She stated Piedmont Wagon needed more than the two replacement vans identified in the grant. She asked the Board to seek answers for these needs.

Marilynn Lucus – Newton – the recent route changes eliminated the route that ran by her home on Hwy 16 – this was her only means of transportation. Wanted to know what happens to the people on the route that was between Newton and Conover and no longer exists.

Tina Lewis – With Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare – decrease in routes has taken away transportation for many of those who have been placed in homes by Behavioral Healthcare. They had intentionally placed people on these routes to encourage employment and now the routes have been eliminated. Ms. Lewis said she was in support of the grant but requested that the routes be expanded again.

Margaret Allen – member of Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities – parent of a disabled child – lives in Claremont – said this is a serious problem for those people with disabilities – asked for further studies on transportation needs.

Jonathan Sobel – in group home - because of route changes, he is no longer able to get to classes to seek his GED.

Chair Barnes told Mr. Bennett that once she closed the public hearing, she would give him an opportunity to respond to some of these comments. She wanted to include in the public hearing that she attended a program last week in regard to the lack of public transportation for teenagers to get to work and to CVCC and the buses did not run late enough to enable these activities. She asked if anyone else wanted to speak on this matter. Hearing and seeing no one, Chair Barnes closed the public hearing.

Mr. Bennett came forward to respond to the comments. He noted the grant at issue was not going to produce funding for the bus routes. He said he was not aware of anyone who qualified for van transportation being turned away for the service but he knew the schedule for that service was very full. He said the urban bus routes changes were being reviewed and in the next two weeks possible modifications would be examined. Commissioner Barger commented that a radio station had a

campaign to call in on the ridership of the buses and people were calling in to say they were seeing no one on the buses. He noted he himself had seen empty buses and wondered if the routes are in the wrong place. He asked that resources be used where they were needed and that needed to be looked into. Vice-Chair Hunsucker also noted he had seen empty buses on Hwy 16 and Fairgrove Church Road. County Manager Lundy said that in Mr. Bennett's initial remarks that he had mentioned the lack of funding and noted that the City of Newton cut back on its financial support and asked if any of the other partners had done so. Mr. Bennett said that it was only Newton that had cut back on funding and Mr. Lundy asked how much did that reduction affect the routes – Mr. Bennett said since the funding from Newton and Conover are equal matches the routes in those two areas have been reduced. Mr. Lundy asked if Newton was reconsidering its funding and Mr. Bennett said he was not aware of the city reconsidering. Chair Barnes said this was an issue that everyone needed to work on and the Commissioners needed to study this. Commissioner Lail asked that Piedmont Wagon report back to the Board on results of its studies and modifications and give the Board an update. Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the grant application. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Appointments:

Chair Kitty Barnes recommended the appointment of Commissioner Barbara Beatty to an unexpired term and a first term on the Bi-State Catawba River Task Force. Commissioner Barbara Beatty recommended the reappointment of Barbara Brown for a fifth term on the Town of Maiden Planning Board and recommended the appointment of Labon Hilderman for an unexpired term to replace Chris Timberlake on the Catawba County Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Beatty also recommended the appointment of William Bump, County Fire Inspector, as designee for David Weldon, EMS Director for a first term and Bruce Prestwood for a first term in the Faith Community category on the Transportation Advisory Board. These recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Consent Agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following five items under the consent agenda:

a. Revision to one of Social Services Outcomes which dealt with reducing the number of admissions to Youth Development Centers which requires having opportunities available in the community for those youth. The change was a small one – going from three sessions to five sessions but Mr. Lundy drew the Board's attention to the outcome which is aggressive when looking at the National statistics where 75% of court-involved youths will have multiple arrests within a one-year period of time – and the outcome the County has is that 80% of youths who go through at least 5 sessions will have NO charges.

b. Request from the Catawba County Firefighter's Association to waive a safety inspection fee of \$84.00 in relation to a recent fundraising event.

c. Request to amend the CDBG Scattered Site Housing Grant to add income to the budget in the amount of \$11,478.67. A citizen assisted by the program in 2003 passed away so the family sold the home and the debt is being returned to the program and reinvested. The appropriations are as follows:

Revenue:

280-4200101-627200	Program Income	\$11,478.67
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Expenditures:

280-420101-849120	Rehabilitation (CDBG)	\$11,478.67
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d. Request to amend the 2005 Urgent Repair Project Budget to acknowledge \$693.00 in interest which will be applied to the Project. The appropriations are as follows:

Revenue:

280-4200106-627205	Interest Earned on Revenue	693.00
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Expenditures:

280-420106-849120	Rehabilitation (URP)	693.00
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e. Resolution approving the Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule for 2007. Resolution read as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-  
Adopting 2007 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-47 of the Catawba County Code, the regular meetings of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners shall be held as provided in a resolution adopted by the Board in a regularly scheduled meeting held not less than ten days prior to the first meeting to which the resolution is to apply. The Board will observe the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by meeting on the Tuesday following such holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners adopts the following Meeting Schedule for 2007:

January 16 – Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
February 5 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.  
February 19 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
March 19 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
April 2 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.  
April 16 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
May 7 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.  
May 21 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
May 30 – Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Budget hearings with Departments  
May 31 – Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – Budget Public Hearings & Wrap-Up  
June 4 – Monday, 9:30 a.m. (Budget Adoption)  
June 18 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
July 9 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
August 6 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.  
August 20 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
September 4 – Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.  
September 17 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
October 1 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.  
October 15 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
November 5 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.  
November 19 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
December 3 – Monday, 8:00-9:00 annual breakfast w/CES – Regular meeting 9:30 a.m.  
December 17 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2006.

Chair Barnes asked if any Commissioner wished for any item to be broken out from the consent agenda. None were requested. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Other Items of Business.

Section II F of the 2005-2006 Budget Ordinance states: "Reinventing Departments may create or abolish positions which impact the outcomes approved by the Board of Commissioners and within available revenues upon summary approval of the Board of Commissioners. Approval will come at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting and will be attached and approved as part of the minutes."

Under this provision of the Budget Ordinance, the following personnel changes have been made to Social Services' budget:

Social Worker II (1)

The position will provide case management or connection for substance abuse assessment and treatment services to families and children in cases of child abuse and neglect in order to help maintain the family together rather than having the children removed from the home. Substance abuse is present in approximately 70% of child protective services cases, and this provides integration in a reasonable way to try to address those problems as well as meet the budget outcomes of keeping children safe and families together. The program will generate revenue through Family NET to help offset the cost.

Outpatient Therapist (3)

With Mental Health issues present in over 60% of child welfare cases this position will service as a therapist to assess and treat mental health problems in child protective services cases, and help meet budget outcomes of protecting children and keeping families together. It presents a good opportunity to integrate mental health and child protective services to deal with the total family and focus on common problem in child welfare. It enhances the outcome of helping keep families together where there are issues of child abuse and neglect. Primary funding will be generated through Family NET.

Mental Health Supervisor (1)

Supervisors' span of control is too elongated, and will require extra effort and attention to focus on the integration of Child Protective Services and Mental Health. Revenue will be generated through the normal social services indirect plan.

Clinical Counselor (1)

The ACT Program is mandated to add an additional counselor to satisfy funding requirements as there is a specific caseload standard. Medicaid revenue will provide the finances for this position.

11. Attorneys' Report.

Interim County Attorney Debra Bechtel Staff requested the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution authorizing herself, as attorney acting on behalf of the County, to sell inherited shares of stock and sign any necessary documents associated with that transaction.

On November 5, 2004, Catawba County received a \$250,000 check from the estate of Samuel J. Buie. Mr. Buie bequeathed this money to the Department of Social Services with the stipulation that the money be used "for the utilization and benefit of persons who reside in Catawba County and who are blind and whose income falls below the poverty line". Subsequently, the Social Services Board decided to invest the money in perpetuity using any interest or proceeds to carry out the wishes expressed under Mr. Buie's will. In July 2006, Catawba County was notified that Samuel J. Buie had designated Social Services as the recipient of his residual estate. All that is left in the residual estate are 267 shares of Del Monte Foods stock, which on October 24, 2006, was selling at \$10.98 per share. Social Services wishes to sell the stock and add the money to the original bequest.

The stock was recently transferred into Catawba County's name. With the resolution, I will be able to execute the appropriate paperwork to sell the stock and a check will be issued to the County and then put in the appropriate account of Social Services.

The resolution read as follows:

**RESOLUTION #2006 -  
AUTHORIZATION FOR ATTORNEY TO SELL INHERITED STOCK**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Samuel J. Buie died and bequeathed the residual part of his estate to the Catawba County Department of Social Services, and

**WHEREAS**, the residual of Mr. Buie's estate consists of 267 shares of Del Monte Foods stock, and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Social Services wants the stock sold and the money invested with the previous bequest of Mr. Buie, with the proceeds of the investment are being used "for the utilization and benefit of persons who reside in Catawba County and who are blind and whose income falls below the poverty line", and

**WHEREAS**, Debra Bechtel, as Attorney for the County, is handling all of the paperwork to carry out this transaction, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bank of New York, who is handling the stock transaction needs a Resolution from Catawba County's governing Board authorizing Debra Bechtel to sell the stock and sign any related paperwork.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes Debra Bechtel, as Attorney for Catawba County, to sell the stock recently inherited by Catawba County from Mr. Buie and to execute any paperwork associated with that transaction.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

Commissioner Barger made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Manager's Report.

County Manager Lundy asked for feedback on the new sound system which was being utilized for the first time at this meeting. The Board said the sound was much better. He then asked the Board to consider a brief closed session pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to move into closed session.

13. Adjournment. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn at 10:36 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

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Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk